

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A cable modem apparatus connected to a network system through a cable, comprising:

an interface configured to transmit and receive a data signal transported through said cable based on set frequency data;

a memory configured to store a frequency table for selecting a frequency matching the frequency of said data signal transmitted through said cable and having a cache area for saving frequency data which has been selected previously from said frequency table;

setting means configured to select matching frequency data from said cache area or said frequency table in said memory at start of communication to set said selected frequency data in said interface; and

saving means configured to save information indicative of frequency data in said cache area when said frequency data selected from said frequency table is matching the frequency of the data signal,

wherein said setting means is configured to select frequency data with priority in accordance with the information saved in said cache area, and when it is determined that said frequency data is not matching the frequency of the data signal, said setting means is configured to sequentially search said frequency data from the frequency table for frequency data matching the frequency of the data signal, and

wherein said setting means is configured to determine at predetermined intervals while sequentially searching the frequency data from the frequency table, whether or not frequency data in accordance with the information saved in said cache area is matching the frequency of the data signal.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) [[The]] A cable modem apparatus according to claim 1, connected to a network system through a cable, comprising:
an interface configured to transmit and receive a data signal transported through said cable based on set frequency data;
a memory configured to store a frequency table for selecting a frequency matching the frequency of said data signal transmitted through said cable and having a cache area for saving frequency data which has been selected previously from the frequency table;
setting means configured to select matching frequency data from said cache area or said frequency table in said memory at start of communication to set said selected frequency data in said interface; and
saving means configured to save information indicative of frequency data in said cache area when said frequency data selected from said frequency table is matching the frequency of the data signal,
wherein said setting means is configured to sequentially search said cache area for matching frequency data matching the frequency of the data signal

and determines determine during this sequentially searching at predetermined intervals whether said frequency data stored in said frequency table is matching the frequency of the data signal.

5. (Currently amended) A method of setting a frequency applied to a cable modem apparatus connected to a network system through a cable, said cable modem apparatus comprising an interface configured to transmit and receive a data signal based on set frequency data, and a memory configured to store a frequency table for selecting a frequency matching the frequency of the data signal transmitted through said cable and having a cache area for saving frequency data which has been selected previously from said frequency table, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting frequency data with priority from said cache area of said memory at start of communication;

sequentially selecting frequency data from said frequency table to find matching frequency data ~~when said frequency data selected from said cache area is not matching~~ matching the frequency of the data signal when the frequency data selected previously is not matching the frequency of the data signal; and

selecting matching frequency data from said cache area or said frequency table to set said selected data in said interface; and

during the sequentially selecting, making a determination at predetermined intervals whether frequency data saved in the cache area is matching the frequency of the data signal.

6-8. (Cancelled)